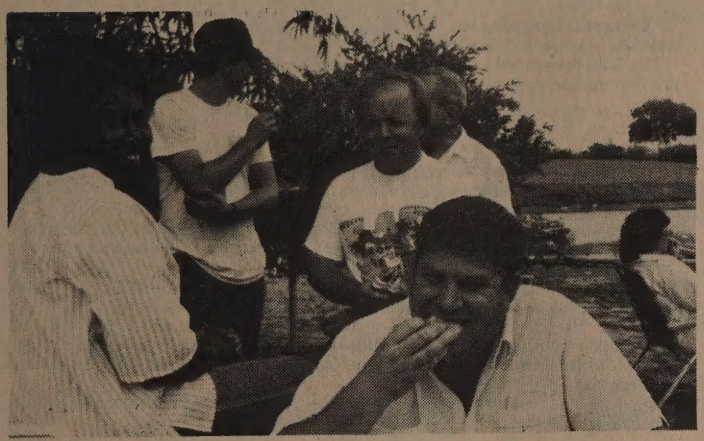
FLORIDA SKIP

VOL. 33 NO. 8 THE ALL-FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION June 1991 · 75 Cents

PRB-1 PASSES IN FLORIDA



Chow time at the West Palm Beach Field Day site. Here Jeff Beals WB2OUK is doing what he does BEST – EAT... On right is Hyacynth Logan N4QWN, Club Secretary.....

SKYBEACON-3
By John J. Bayne, N4EEB
StratoNet Projects Manager
7 Castle Manor Drive
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(904) 677-8520

We are planning a very impressive venture for mid-August with the release of HamStar SkyBeacon-3. I will briefly describe the payload components later in this letter, but I need your help in locating an equipment donation.

The packet radio portion of the payload necessitates the need to acquire a small handheld two-meter radio of reasonably good quality for integration into HamStar's electronic systems. This handheld would serve two important purposes. It will allow stations on the ground to connect to a "SAREX Like" QSO robot

QSY BACK P. Col. 2

C O M I N G E V E N T S

Fla. 25th QSO Party, May 18 & 19
Jax. Amateur/Computer Show Aug. 3 & 4th
FGCARC Suncoast Convention Nov. 23 & 24th
Miami Hamboree Feb. 8 & 9, 1992
Pensacola Hamfest Feb. 15th
Melhourne Hamfest Sept. 13, 14 & 15th.
Brandford ARC Hamfest. Oct. 26 (Starke)
Note: Hamfester asvise youe dates ASAP. AC

PRB-1 PASSES IN FLORIDA
By George L. Thurston, W4MLE
2116 Gibbs Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Florida amateurs, who often had to fight city hall's zoning restrictions to put up a good antenna, now have the protection of state law, in addition to PRB-1.

By unanimous vote in both houses, the Florida Legislature embedded the federal regulation into a new state law designated 91-28 (Chapters 125.0185 and 166.0435, Florida Statutes). It's the first such statute in the country and could set an example for other states to follow.

The new law, which became effective April 26th, contains the essence of the FCC's antenna regulation PRB-1. Final passage of the bill was unanimous in both the House and the Senate.

PRB-1 is the FCC regulation that says that local governments may not enforce laws or ordinances that unreasonably limit the size or height of amateur radio antenna support structures. Although it over-rules any state or local law to the contrary, city and county attorneys are usually not aware of it. Local governing boards often go ahead and write restrictive zoning codes anyhow, forcing hams to beat city hall in court — often at great expense.

Now, theoretically at least, it should only be necessary for a threatened Florida amateur to cite the law to the city (or county) attorney. But PRB-1 has limitations. For one thing, it allows local government boards to apply the test of esthetics, so long as esthetic limitations don't interfere unduly with communications efficiency.

And if you moved into a house with a lease or with a restrictive covenant, PRB-1 and Florida Statute 91-28 won't help a bit! The lease or covenant is a contract between the seller and you, the buyer. If you signed that property transaction, you agreed to abide by the covenant restrictions. And if the covenant restricts antennas, you're stuck. The solution is to buy a house without such a covenant hidden in the agate type.

Statute 91-28 sailed through the legislature with virtually no trouble for several reasons. First, it didn't change anything. The cities and counties lost nothing to 91-28 that they hadn't already lost to PRB-1.

The bill had the support of powerful legislators in both the House and the Senate. Representative Hurley Rudd, Tallahassee, who introduced the House bill, lives a few doors down the street from ARRL State Government Liaison (SGL) John Hills, KC4N, and sits on the general government subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. Supporters included House Speaker T.K. Wetherell. Senator Pat Thomas, Quincy, a prominent supporter of the bill, is chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. Senator Richard Crotty, Orlando, who introduced the companion bill in the Senate, sits on both the Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Community Affairs. Just as importantly, perhaps, was the enthusiastic support of the Florida amateur community, organized and encouraged by Northern Florida SM Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP. The legislators and the Governor's office reported "an unusual number of phone calls" from around the state favoring the bill.

QSY back page.

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DEADLINE: 8th of month in P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

(See Advertising Rates in Hambar Section)

SILENT KEYS

We are deeply sorry to report the passing of the following Florida Amateurs. Please advise Ye Ed if you hear of any in your area. Tks AC

WA4ZRW	Sherman F "Red" Crise, 83	Davie
W2IHH	Earl Engman	Miami
W4RIH	Thomas Braxton, 77	Lakeland
W8VHV	Mert Beaubien	Port Richey
K3HWI	Charles W. Evans	Bradenton
W4AEP	Jess R. Leach	Orlando
N4gq	Jack G. Renaud	Mary Esther
K4JNB	John H. Stuewe	Bonita Springs
W4LFZ	Walter A. Rundquist	Gulfport
WD4OIV	Norman Doerflein	Orlando

I LOVE YOU

By Jack Stewart, WA4JET

Ham radio, I love you!
And I will until I die;
From your copper-coated ground rods
To your cloud hook in the sky.

And your feedline looks so fancy
Like a ladder to a star.
But the QRM you hand me,
And that high SWR!

I love you, ham radio!
But the XYL will fret,
When she calls me for supper
As I start to call the net.

Ham radio, I love you!
But sometimes you make me weep,
When I'm chasing all that D.X.

And losing all that sleep.
I love you, ham radio!
With you I'd rather be,
Even though you have a father
Like that straight-laced FCC.

— From ARNS Bulletin

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Andy:

While I was in Tallahassee I stopped by the Florida Legislature and obtained a copy of the House Bill CS/HB 203, relative to amateur radio antennas, which appears to track the amateur radio pre-emption 101 FCC 2d 952 (1985).

If you read this bill carefully, it is not an emancipation from municipal and local zoning regulations but, it should help amateurs in their application for permits to erect their tower.

Hope I can meet with you at the next QCWA luncheon meeting Saturday.

73,
James Pilafian, KE4KX
1566 Coral Way, Suite 3
Miami, FL 33145

Dear Andy:

Here's my Skip renewal with my early best wishes for a good Christmas season and a great New Year.

And here is something else: Did you know that our new metal auto plates, with our call-sign, bears the letters DMV instead of the county name?

The local metermaid assured me that those letters (DMV) entitles us to free parking in any municipal, metered parking lot. No more parking meter problems!

Jim Tew, WA4ONZ
455 West Clough Avenue
Lake Helen, FL 32744

Dear Andy:

The Antenna Support Structure Bill became law midnight, April 26, 1991. The amateurs in Florida should be proud of their efforts, as if it had not been for the contacts made to the representatives and senators, there would not have been a bill.

It is my understanding that the Senate tabled their bill and adopted the House version, and the Senator that voted nay, changed the vote making it unanimous for the Senate.

It was my pleasure and privilege to be invited to attend TARS Club Meeting Thursday night, May 3rd, in Tallahassee, to participate in honoring the sponsor of the legislation. The president of the club, John, KC4N presented an ARRL Certificate of Appreciation to Representative Hurley Rudd for his efforts in sponsoring the bill.

Representative Rudd was told that the Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts represented all Florida amateurs.

Again, I want to thank each of you for your assistance and cooperation in getting this legislation for our state.

73,
Rudy Hubbard, S.M.
Northern Florida
P.O. Box 843
Milton, FL 32572-0843

YOUR HAM LICENSE

When was the last time you looked at your amateur license? Do you know when it expires? You should! Even with a two-year grace period, time slips by fast. If you do not know when your ticket runs out, I would suggest you find it now and make a note of it.

This all leads up to one point, if you need a FCC 610 Form **Florida Skip** can supply you with one or two provided you send us a number 10 (10-inch) evelope, self-addressed and stamped to: Skip 610, P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

The Miami FCC Field Office was kind enough to send us about 200 forms recently to pass out as needed. Play it safe . . . check your license now.

READ THE TOP LINE

Your address (the top line) shows your Skip expiration date. If we don't receive your renewal fee by the 18th of that month the computer automatically kicks your address out on the next mailing and you will not receive any future issues.

We can't afford to send back issues. It cost us about 85¢ to send one copy (copy, postage and handling). So please send your renewals promptly.

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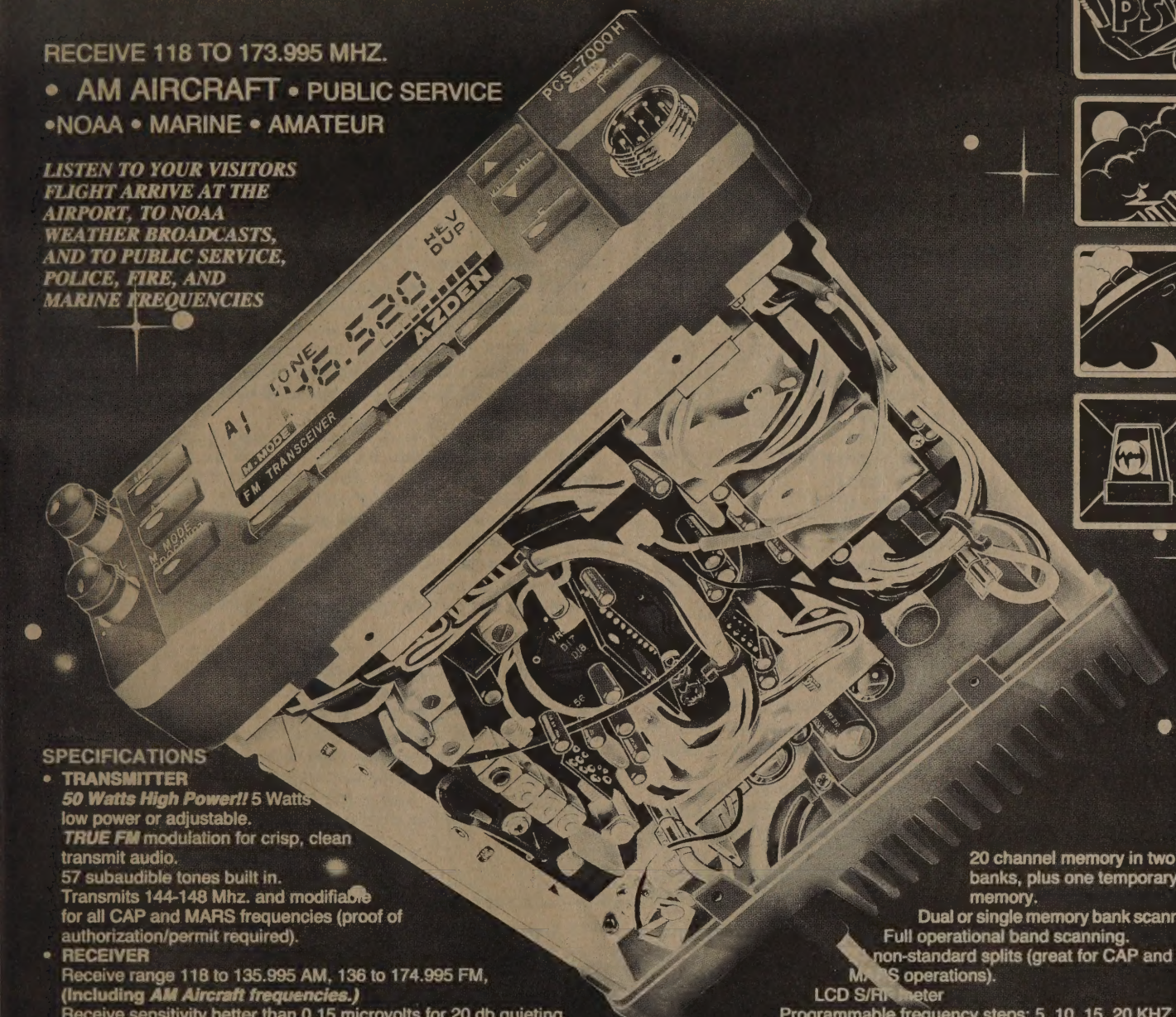

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TRAFFIC HOUNDS — APRIL 1991

By K4ZK, STM South Florida

NET	QNI	AVG.	QTC	AVG.	SESSIONS	MGR	QTC/QNI
QFN	965	16.1	837	14.0	60	AA4HT	0.86
FMTN	650	21.7	454	15.1	30	W4NFK	0.69
FPTN	1,336	44.5	435	14.5	30	WB4WYG	0.32
NFPN	2,214	73.8	392	13.1	30	WA4NDA	0.17
SEFTN	1,190	30.7	334	11.1	30	KD4GR	0.28
FMSN	366	12.2	218	7.3	30	N4KFU	0.59
TPTN	572	19.1	190	6.3	30	WX4J	0.33
FAST	541	9.0	184	3.1	60	WD4KBW	0.34
GN	264	8.8	165	5.5	30	W4DL	0.62
SVTN	863	29.7	160	5.5	29	KB4LB	0.18
SWFTN	680	30.8	113	4.4	26	K4FQU	0.16
FPON	321	10.7	102	2.8	30	WB4GCK	0.31
QFNS	252	8.4	101	3.3	30	KC4FL	0.40
SPARC	568	18.9	46	1.5	30	WD4FAL	0.08
AIN	63	15.8	8	2.0	4	WA4PFK	0.12
ENMC	44	11.0	2	0.5	4	K4ZK	0.04

Total QTC: 3,741 • Average QTC/QNI: .34

LATE TRAFFIC HOUNDS FOR MARCH, 1991

DEN	348	87.0	21	5.2	4	N4VDM

TOP TWENTY TRAFFICERS — APRIL 1991

By WA4PFK and WA4PUP

STATION	TOTAL	STATION	TOTAL
1. W3CUL	3,014	11. K4SCL	301
2. W4TJM	1,999	12. K4IA	300
3. W3VR	1,093	13. KB4WBY	293
4. WA9VND	997	14. K4FQU	293
5. KB9LT	593	15. WA4PUP	269
6. AA4HT	567	16. K4ZK	259
7. WB0HOX	518	17. WA4EIC	241
8. N4SS	515	18. KD4GR	228
9. WA4QXT	417	19. KA4FZI	222
10. WA4PFK	332	20. WT4F	216

FLORIDA C.W. NETS

By Ed, K4IA

QFN Manager Rip, AA4HT Writes: April statistics show that traffic is slowing down for the summer averaging, but 14.0 per session compared to the 15.6 in March. Check-ins are also showing that some of our winter visitors have headed for home dropping the average to 16.1 per session from 18.8.

Had it not been for the activity at Sun and Fun Fly-In at Lakeland, traffic would have been much lower. During the week of April 7th, one session handled 66 messages. After this, the traffic activity really dropped off.

Many thanks to the net control stations for the super job they do. They also have been quite prompt in submitting the net reports. Sure makes the net manager's job easier.

Late in April, Cotton Stokes, KB9LT was again admitted to the hospital. I understand he underwent bypass surgery and is now at home progressing very nicely. Also Carl, W4NFK has been unable to return to QFN because of his extended illness. We wish Cotton and Carl a speedy recovery, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

As a result of conditions, it was necessary to move the early session of QFN to 7061 KHz, however, the late session remains on 3651.

—73,

See you on QFN.

Rip

FMSN Reported by Joe, N4KFU: Activity decreased during April from 420 check-ins to 365, indicating that some of our people headed north, even though Easter was not in April this year. However, traffic stayed at the same level and the net was in session on an average of only 23 minutes.

WC4D led the parade of check-ins with 29 and he was closely followed by WA9VND, KC4TNI and AA4FG, all being over 25. Stations checking in over 15 times were: AA4BN, AA4CH, N4KFU, KJ4OU, AA4HT, and N4UAV.

Incidentally, N4UAV pulled up stakes and was reportedly making her way up north. Many thanks to Beth for all her efforts and interest in the net and we look forward for her safe return.

KB9LT went in for surgery and at press-time, was reported to be doing well. We wish Cotton the best and a speedy recovery. KC4TNI volunteered to take the Tuesday night QFN slot and we thank Art for stepping forward.

With the net shifting to 7061 KHz we lost N4IWO. Therefore, I took his Wednesday night NCS position. Again we look forward to Don's return when the net shifts back to 3651 KHz. Don did a fine job as always during his winter stint.

I hope to see you on FMSN each night at 5:30 local time on 7061 KHz.

—73,

Joe

Gator Net Notes by Dan, W4DL: The best news is that Cotton, KB9LT is improving.

Interference to GN operations is still a problem as is the need for more check-ins and traffic.

Charlie, WA4EYU continues his jogging along with President Bush.

Mae, W3CUL had trouble with her schedules with that last bunch of solar flares.

Chris, N4EYC is working on a homebrew antenna tuner.

Sam, N4BGS is branching out as is heard on both Gator Net and QFN.

Dan, W4DL had amplifier trouble and is now using good old AL811 amplifier while working on the AL80.

That's about it for now. Join us on 7066 KHz at 0830 local time.

—73,

Dan

QFNS Notes by John, KC4FL: In April we had 252 stations check in with a total of 101 messages in 735 minutes. This is an increase of slightly over 11 percent in traffic from last month.

Let's continue to bring messages to be either delivered locally or passed on to other nets by our liaison stations. Out-of-state messages can be routed via QFN at 10:00 p.m. to the daytime fourth and fifth region nets.

We hope to see you on QFNS at 8:00 p.m. local time every day.

—73,

John

Bringing in Florida traffic on the regional nets is frequently difficult with band conditions as they are in summer time. If you are waiting in line, you can use the time to trim up your receiver for best readability. Use RIT so your transmitter freqency stays put, reduce RF gain to reduce static crash desensing and find the best audio filter bandwidth, also trying other receiving antennas if possible. If you can copy nearly all of it, fine, otherwise you will be better off requesting a switch to a higher frequency band.

—73,

Ed, K4IA

S.S.B. NETS

By Joe Scungio, N4KFU

From FPTN Net Manager Bill, WB4WYG: Like most SSB nets, traffic slowed down since the Sun and Fun bash. April had 1,336 stations check in for an average of 44.5 stations per session while passing 633 messages for an average of 14.5 messages a session. Average time per session was 31 Romeo 5 minutes. Just round down folks.

Liaison for the Sun and Fun bash were: WA9VND with 198 messages, for mid-day net; WB0HOX and KB4MON helping to clear the afternoon traffic to later nets. These folks took care of most of the traffic, so we sure congratulate them for their efforts.

Thirty-two stations, representing 60.3 of net roster, checked in over 80 percent of net sessions with 18 stations checking in 100 percent of net sessions. Stations checking in 100 percent were: W4BKC, AA4CH, K4EJW, N4GMU, WB0HOX, WA4JDH, K4KIC, KB4MON, K4NKA, KB4RTG, WA4RUE, K4SJA, W4SME, WA9VND, KI4VT, KB4WCX, WB4WYG and WB4ZVD.

The net welcomed E.B., K4GEW of Venice; Joe, N4GGX of Mayo; and Harold, WB4TOV of Okeechobee to the net roster. This will help a great deal when you get some of those hard to deliver messages.

Walt, WA4QXT, will be out of town during part of May and June. That's a reminder that vacations will be upon us soon and

many will be gone from time to time. K4EJW, KB4WCX and KB4FIY all headed for the cool hills of North Carolina.

If you feel a little hesitant about handling traffic, drop in and ask questions. We all had to start some place and we all made mistakes, and like most we profited from these. It's hard to learn without making mistakes, but the important thing is learning from those mistakes, so jump in on 3940 KHz at 7:00 a.m. and have fun.

—73's
Bill

From SWFTN Net Manager Earl, K4FQU: Summer's busting in. Most tourists and winter residents have gone. Traffic is a little better and things are slowing down some. It's always amazing how many of our visitors check into the nets regularly and take an active part. We usually find out when they leave how much help the were. Therefore, my call as usual, for this time of year, is going out for people to enlist and help out.

I have a candidate for NCS and liaison work, and hope this works out.

My sincere thanks to Monte, N0ABC for the terrific job as NCS for these many years. Monte has tendered his resignation due to other pressing ventures. We will surely miss him and his expertise. I do have a permanent standby for Mondays, but could use a couple more standbys.

Talk it up folks. April never sets the world on fire and this April was no exception. However, May should bring Mother's Day traffic.

Everyone is doing a great job and I thank yo as always. See you all on the net.

—73's
Earl

INTRUDER WATCH

Here is the latest (March 11) list of intruders in HF Amateur Radio bands that the ARRL has asked the FCC's Treaty Branch to pursue with the U.S. and other countries:

Freq.	Mode	Content
7008 kHz	F1B	Idling and traffic
18095.5 kHz	F1B	2 kHz shift coded traffic
18152 kHz	F1B	200 Hz shift traffic, idling
18164.25 kHz	N0N/F1B	Steady carrier, traffic
21284 kHz	F1B	Idling and traffic

IT HAPPENED LONG AGO

By Harry Dukas, K14GH

July 6th	First bikini modeled in Paris, 1946.
July 28th	Miami incorporated, 1896.
August 5th	First American traffic light installed in Cleveland, Ohio, 1914.
August 29th	First chop suey served in New York, 1896.
September 4th	Los Angeles founded, 1721.
September 4th	Kodak Camera patented, 1888.
September 13th	First automobile fatality in New York, 1899.

FLORIDA TRAFFIC NETS

Net	Frequency	Time (eastern)
Florida Phone TFC Net (FPTN)	3940	0700
Gator Net (GT)	7068	0830
Florida Midday TFC Net (FMTN)	7247.5	1145
Tropical Phone TFC Net (TPTN)	3940/7243	1700
Florida Medium Speed TFC Net (FMSN)	3651/7061	1750
South Florida Amateur SSB TFC Net (FAST/E)	3940	1800
South Florida Amateur SSB TFC Net (FAST/L)	3940	2230
Northern Florida Phone Net (NFPN)	3950	1830/1930
All-Florida CW TFC Net (QFN/E)	3651/7061	1900
All-Florida CW TFC Net (QFN/L)	3651	2200
All-Florida Slow CW TFC Net (QFNS)	3715	2000
Florida Public Operations Net (FPON)	3908	1630
ARRL Information Net (AIN)	3940	0730 (saturday)
Northern Florida Emergency Net (NFEN)	3950	0900 (monday-saturday)

Note One:
The formation of a Southern Florida emergency net is being studied at the present time.

Note Two:
The ARRL Net Directory provides a more detailed listing of local and special interest nets.

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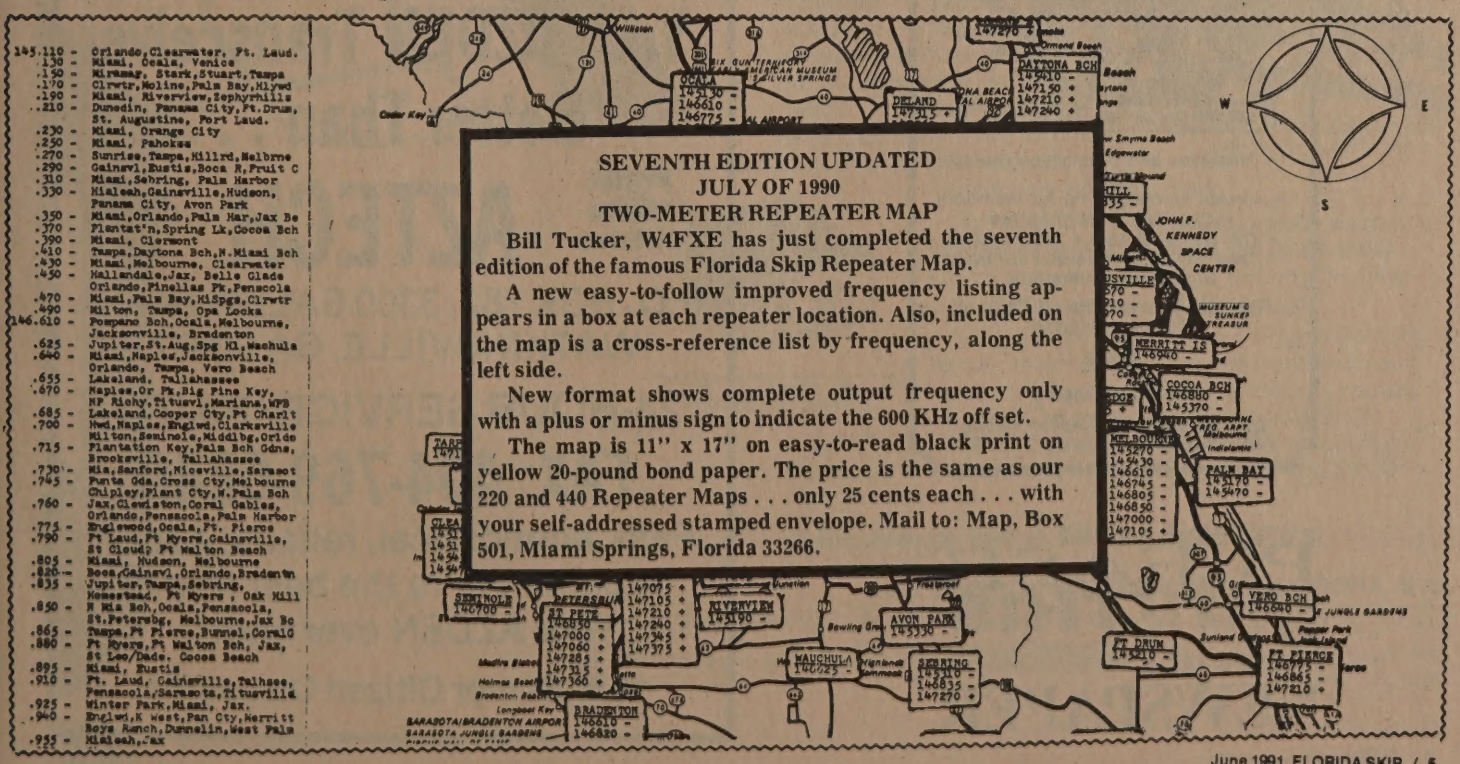
145.110 - Orlando,Clearwater, Ft. Laud.
.130 - Miami, Ocala, Venice
.150 - Miramar, Stark,Stuart,Tampa
.170 - Clrwtr,Moline,Palm Bay,Mlywd
.190 - Miami, Riverview,Zephyrhills
.210 - Dunedin, Panama City, Ft.Drum, St. Augustine, Fort Laud.
.230 - Miami, Orange City
.250 - Miami, Pahokee
.270 - Sunrise,Tampa,Millrd,Melbrne
.290 - Gainsvl,Eustis,Boca R,Fruit C
.310 - Miami,Sebring, Palm Harbor
.330 - Hialeah,Gainsville,Hudson, Panama City, Avon Park
.350 - Miami,Orlando,Palm Har,Jax Be
.370 - Plantat'n,Spring Lk,Cocoa Bch
.390 - Miami, Clermont
.410 - Tampa,Daytona Bch,N.Miami Bch
.430 - Miami,Melbourne, Clearwater
.450 - Hallandale,Jax, Belle Glade Orlando,Pinellas Pk,Pensacola
.470 - Miami,Palm Bay,MiSpgs,Clrwtr
.490 - Milton, Tampa, Opa Locka
146.610 - Pompano Bch,Ocala,Melbourne, Jacksonville, Bradenton
.625 - Jupiter,St.Aug,Spg Hl,Nashula
.640 - Miami,Naples,Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Vero Beach
.655 - Lakeland, Tallahassee
.670 - Naples,Or Pk,Big Pine Key, NP Richy,Pinuvl,Mariana,WPB
.685 - Lakeland,Cooper Cty,Pt Charlt
.700 - Nwd,Naples,Englwd,Clarksville Milton,Seminole,Middlbg,Orlde
.715 - Plantation Key,Palm Bch Gdns, Brooksville, Tallahassee
.730 - Mia,Sanford,Micsville,Sarasot
.745 - Punta Gda,Cross Cty,Melbourne Chipley,Plant Cty,W.Palm Bch
.760 - Jax,Clewiston,Coral Gables, Orlando,Pensacola,Palm Harbor
.775 - Englewood,Ocala,Ft. Pierce
.790 - Ft Laud,Ft Myers,Gainsville, St Cloud? Ft Walton Beach
.805 - Miami, Hudson, Melbourne
.820 - Boca,Gainsvl,Orlando,Bradenton
.835 - Jupiter,Tampa,Sebring, Homestead, Ft Myers ; Oak Hill
.850 - N Mia Bch,Ocala,Pensacola, St.Petersbg, Melbourne,Jax Bc
.865 - Tampa,Ft Pierce,Bunnel,CoralG
.880 - Ft Myers,Ft Walton Bch, Jax, St Lee/Dade. Cocoa Beach
.895 - Miami, Punta
.910 - Ft. Laud, Gainsville,Talhsee, Pensacola,Sarasota,Titusville
.925 - Winter Park,Miami, Jax.
.940 - Englwd,K West,Pan Cty,Merritt Boys Ranch,Dunnelin,West Palm
.955 - Hialeah,Jax
SEVENTH EDITION UPDATED
JULY OF 1990
TWO-METER REPEATER MAP
Bill Tucker, W4FXE has just completed the seventh edition of the famous Florida Skip Repeater Map.
A new easy-to-follow improved frequency listing appears in a box at each repeater location. Also, included on the map is a cross-reference list by frequency, along the left side.
New format shows complete output frequency only with a plus or minus sign to indicate the 600 KHz off set.
The map is 11" x 17" on easy-to-read black print on yellow 20-pound bond paper. The price is the same as our 220 and 440 Repeater Maps . . . only 25 cents each . . . with your self-addressed stamped envelope. Mail to: Map, Box 501, Miami Springs, Florida 33266.
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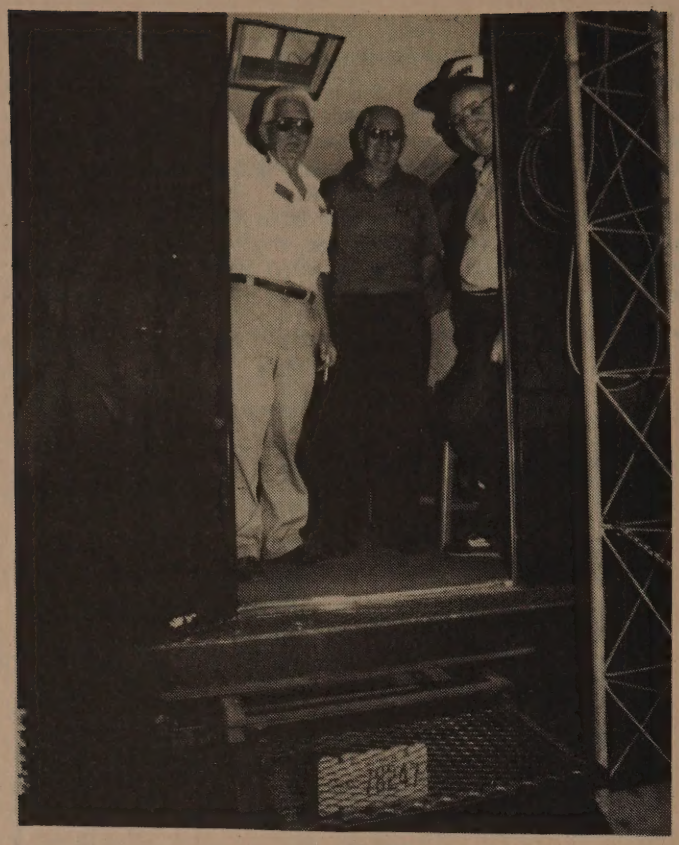

Peeking out the back door of the Polk County Communications Van is: L to R Lucky Parker K4EBO, Russ Maine WB4ZVD and Len Postage, N4UMR during Sun & Fun. April 1991. (Photo via WB4SOU)

POLK HAM CLUB
NARRATIVE SUMMARY
By Ginger Fitzgerald, WB4SOU
1991 Project Number Eight:
Sun and Fun EAA Fly-In
Lakeland, Florida

The Polk County Civil Defense Amateur Communications Society Public Service Club, "The Polk Ham Club," set up and operated its amateur radio station, W4TJM, at the Lakeland, Florida airport, April 7-13, 1991.

A message center was set up and two mobile communication vans were used to send free messages as a public service for the many visitors of the Experimental Aircraft Association Sun and Fun Fly-In. Message distribution was handled through the National Traffic System as sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

A total of 716 visitors signed the guest register at the message center, 285 of these were licensed amateur radio operators. A total of 973 messages were sent to 50 states and nine countries. Fifty-three messages were returned undeliverable, unable to locate addressee by address or telephone number.

Eight staff members and 32 workers worked a total of 1,048 hours. The message and communications center was operated by members of the Polk Ham Club, and ham volunteers from Polk County and adjacent areas. Many of the volunteers hold multiple memberships in other organizations, such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, the National Traffic System and other public service organizations.

Directions and talk-in information was supplied through the Rich Rexroad Repeater, N4KEG, 147.375, and the Lakeland Repeater, 146.685. Fourty-one contacts were made with people requesting directions to the site.

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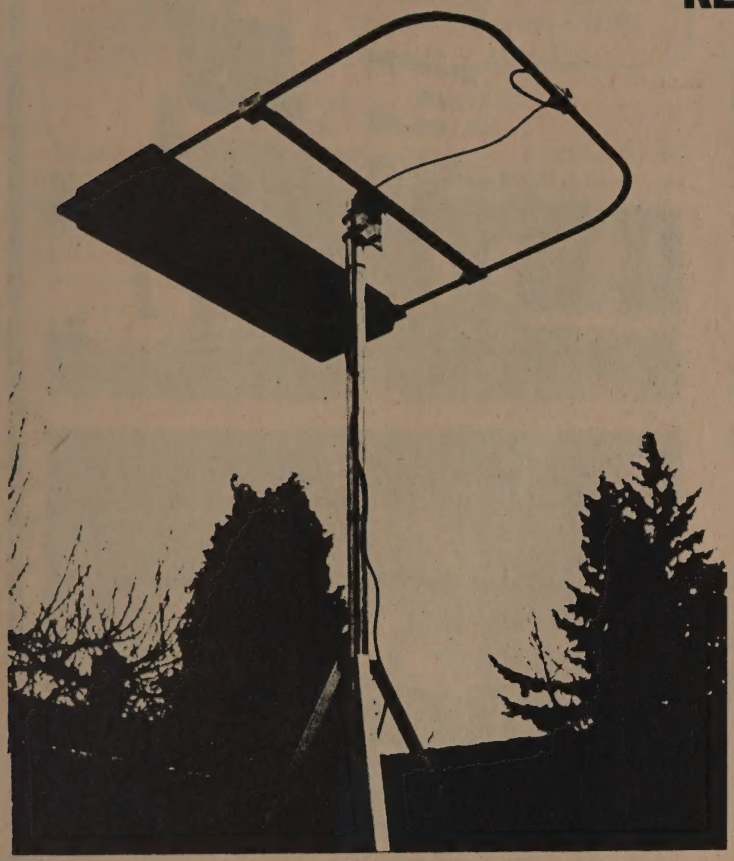
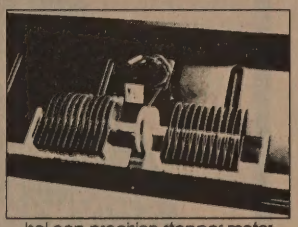


Once again AEA has achieved a significant engineering breakthrough with its high-performance, low profile HF IsoLoop antenna. Performance isn't compromised by its small size. Operate your favorite HF band (14 to 30 MHz frequency coverage) from areas with restrictive zoning ordinances or apartments and condos. Or take it with you on vacation. . . it's the ideal go-anywhere portable antenna. And it's the only antenna you need to cover 14 to 30 MHz. ONE antenna instead of numerous dipoles and without any traps!

150 Watts. Rated up to 150 watts, the IsoLoop transmits and receives on any frequency between 14 to 30 MHz. When mounted with the loop in the horizontal plane, the radiation pattern is omni-directional and horizontally polarized, with the gain of a dipole. Maximum radiation is at low angles which is ideal for DX operation. The IsoLoop may also be mounted with the loop in the vertical plane to provide a null in a desired direction. Tuning is provided by a precision stepper-motor and a small remote control box, the LC-1.

The IsoLoop does not need ground radials and its balanced, shielded feed-loop isolates the feedline from the antenna. The IsoLoop is well-isolated from the feedline. Like AEA's Isopole antennas, your signal is radiated by the antenna and not the feedline. With end-fed antennas, the outside of the coax becomes part of the antenna, resulting in noise and computer hash pickup and increased TVI problems.

High-Q Design. One of the unique features of the IsoLoop is its inherent High-Q. The IsoLoop can be considered a very sharp tunable filter that radiates. The narrow bandwidth suppresses harmonics from your transmitter reducing TVI problems. It also attenuates out-of-band signals from nearby transmitters that could overload your receiver.



IsoLoop precision stepper motor provides accurate tuning.

Compact. The IsoLoop is square, with rounded corners, and measures 32 inches on a side and weighs only 12 pounds. Because of the IsoLoop's small size, it makes a perfect attic or balcony antenna. It's also excellent for portable operation, recreational vehicles or camp-site use. A rotator is not necessary when used in the omni-directional, horizontally polarized mode.

IsoLoop LC-1 control box with variable speed tuning.

Revolutionary. The AEA IsoLoop antenna represents years of research and development. Others may try to imitate the IsoLoop, but none can match the patent-pending design.

AEA also provides technical support from the factory or through your personal computer and modem on CompuServe's HamNet. If you are already a CompuServe member, just type GO HAMNET at any CompuServe prompt. For a free introductory CompuServe membership, call 1-800-848-8199 and ask for representative #48.

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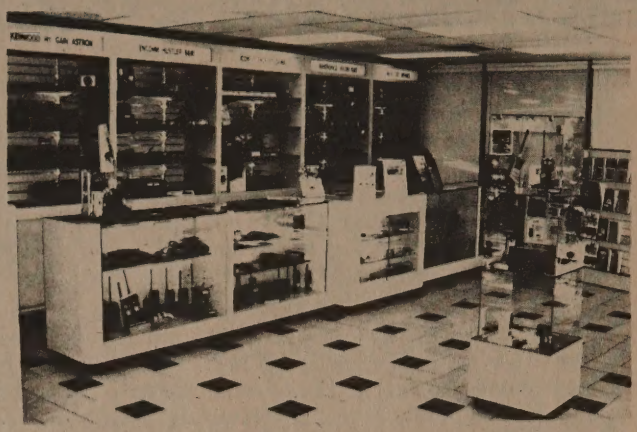

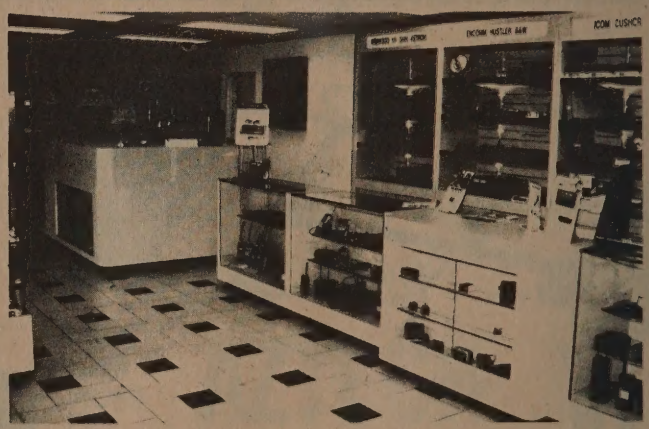

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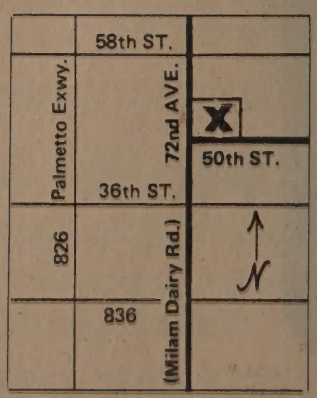

QCWA, Inc.

FLORIDA Q.C.W.A. NEWS
Edited by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

FLORIDA STATE Q.C.W.A. NEWS
Edited by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

Ballots for the election of the QCWA Board of Directors should be in your mail box by now. Give this ballot your serious consideration. It's a full ballot this year. Study the biographical information on each candidate and vote for the candidate of your choice.

We have a report that QCWA Director Pete Packstrom, W3DM is a "silent key." Pete was a very dedicated and conscientious member.

It was suggested that each QCWA Chapter appoint a chapter historian. It's very easy to keep up a record of important milestones in the history of a chapter, but it's surprising how fast those items can be lost in antiquity and very difficult to recover.

The tape program continues to be quite popular among QCWA members who are sight impaired. The tapes provide the highlights from the QCWA Journal and are available upon request, and they are free. Write to the Tape Coordinator Blanche Randles, W4GXZ.

SUWANNEE CHAPTER

Our chapter held its second meeting of the 1991 season on April 25th at Don's Smorgasbord in Ocala with 53 members and guests in attendance. The next meeting is on Thursday, June 27th.

We are pleased to acknowledge two new members — the Kellers — Jody, K3OAK and George, W3SAP.

Rollo Medler, W4ANN, program chairman, filled in for John Witherspoon, W4GUJ who is ill. John supplied Rollo with a fine tape on railroading in Switzerland, and the talk and tape were well received.

Daisy Coleman, W4QAV, secretary/treasurer, gave a report on chapter business and finances, and they are in good order.

Doug Morick, W3NNT took a series of pictures which we should see at the next meeting.

The President mentioned that he has Prodigy service with his computer, and there has been a great deal of amateur and QCWA information on the various bulletin boards of this service. His number is KCFD55A, should any QCWA member care to drop him "E" mail.

— Reported by President Ray Chartier, W1RFE

Editor's Note: Ray sent me a complete history outline of the Suwannee Chapter. It is quite complete and apparently took a great deal of time to compile. Every chapter should try to do the same.

HERNANDO CHAPTER

Our Annual Spring Picnic was held on Wednesday, April 3rd and was the biggest ever with 40 members and guests attending. The weather was perfect and food was great, and our little fuzzy friends got the date wrong and didn't show up.

Our regular April meeting was held on the 16th and it was obvious that many of the snow birds had already departed as there were only 16 members and guests present.

Starting next month, we will have informal luncheons at Sorrentos on the third Tuesday of each month and resume our regular meetings on September 17th. Our "Welcome Back Snow Birds Picnic" will be on November 6th.

— Reported by Eunis, W1UKR

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

We regret to report that Leo Braxton, W4RIH is a "silent key." He was a chapter member and will be missed.

Dwight Redus, N4LBG is improving fast after surgery and Al Streling, W4OFT feeling much better of late. Sparky Spark, W4LHP is doing well following his heart surgery.

Al now has his antenna farm complete.

We have two new members: Dan Child, W3IUW from Winter Haven and Bob Glamm, W9UGN from Fedhaven.

Many of our regulars have returned to home-base for the summer. They keep in touch by joining our local group on 14245 KHz, Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Our regular chapter net is very active every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. on-or-near 7243 KHz. Many call in from around the Southeast.

Our chapter meetings continue through the summer months at the Sizzler Restaurant on U.S. 98N, Lakeland. We start at 11:30. No business meeting during the summer months, just friendly get togethers.

— Reported by Jim Gundry, W4JM

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

There were 82 members and guests present at our monthly meeting at the House of Chong in Sarasota on April 4th.

It was reported that William Pasman, WA8AME was in very poor condition in a nursing home.

Robert Siff, K4AMG presented the following slate of candidates: President, Art Miligan, W8KW; Vice President John Karban, W3IGC; Treasurer Larry Pearsall, W9FDY; and Secretary Lloyd Pfahler, W8FKL. The election will be held at the May meeting.

Joe McConville, WD4MFA introduced Walt Person, W4OKI who gave a talk on the many famous entertainers he had known and worked with during his years in broadcast radio and television.

— Reported by Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF

Meet the new officers for the Central Florida QCWA Chapter No. 107. Lakeland, FL. L to R: Lew Porter, K4ovq, V P J. Hitchcock K8YGH, Sec. John Spark, W4LHP, Pres. and Frank Mason, W4TIC. Congrats gents. (Photo via W4JM)

GATOR CHAPTER

At our April meeting, there were 43 members and guests in attendance.

We are sorry to report that Hal Bates, W4OIN is a "silent key." Hal was 92 years old and was the first president of the Gator Chapter which was chartered in 1966.

Paul Turner, W1DLP advised that the May meeting would be his last as he is moving to Winter Park. Paul is president of our chapter and he's also a former secretary of the Pelican Chapter. He will be greatly missed by both chapters. Citrus Chapter be on the lookout for him.

We are sorry to report that Fred Leedham, W1WOX our net manager, has been very ill, but is now showing improvement. We hope to have him back soon.

The program was given by Mr. Ed Deering who makes up stories from letters on auto registration plates. It was very interesting and he used slides to tell the stories.

Jay Strom, K9BSL, secretary of Pelican and former president attended, and he spoke on running the QCWA National Convention in 1993. Much help will be needed from both chapters.

Wes Randles, W4COW our national treasurer is again running for treasurer and he gave a report on the finances of QCWA. Both our chapters highly recommend him for treasurer in the upcoming election.

Our May meeting will be our last official meeting until October, but we will continue to have informal meetings during the summer.

— Reported by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

CITRUS CHAPTER

At our April meeting, the program was a video tape entitled, "More Than Radios." It was produced by ZMAN of Washington State. The theme of the movie was an older ham taking a young man and leading him to become a ham. Not only did the young man become a ham, but a bond developed that was more than radios.

Chuck Bolvin, K4KQ also mentioned a group of British amateurs were going out into the Pacific for some DX operating.

— Reported by Stanley Llewellyn, W4HCN

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

Our regular chapter meeting was held on March 28th in the Prosperity Oaks Dining Room. Thirty-six members and guests were in attendance, which is a record for the year so far.

The members were asked to check their chapter and national dues, and bring them up to date.

The attendees enjoyed a very informative talk about the new John MacArthur State Park which was opened recently and is located on the north end of Singers Island in North Palm Beach.

We also had a nice presentation on the merits of QRP operation on the HF bands.

Jim Daniels, KC4IYY exhibited his equipment and described his experiences in the use of input power of less than five watts — frequently under one-watt for working worldwide DX.

John Pearce, WB4P and Al Linden, W3KYL are both not well and not able to attend recent meetings. I'm sure both would appreciate a QSL from any of their friends.

— Reported by Bob McDow, W4KOG

PELICAN CHAPTER

There were 35 members and guests at our April 17th meeting at the Homestyle Buffet in St. Petersburg.

The program was presented by Paul Turner, W1DLP. He showed slides of his first transmittter which was a 50-kilowatt transmitter operated by NBC at Bound Brook, New Jersey. Paul and his XYL will be leaving this area soon and moving to Winter Park, and we wish them well in their new home.

Lynn, K4HCV was presented his 55- and 60-Year Certificates by Vice President Ralph, K9MOR.

Don, W4PCO presented a great article called, "A Standing Ovation for K4YL."

John, W4ACG is sporting a new van. He no longer has to depart the chair as he has a lift to place him and the chair into the van. He can lock the chair into the drivers position.

We have a breakfast meeting each month and 13 members attended.

Blanche Randles, W4GXZ our president, sent in a report on the National Board Meeting held in Irving, Texas. The next QCWA Journal will have a report on this meeting.

— Reported by Secretary Jay Strom, K9BSL

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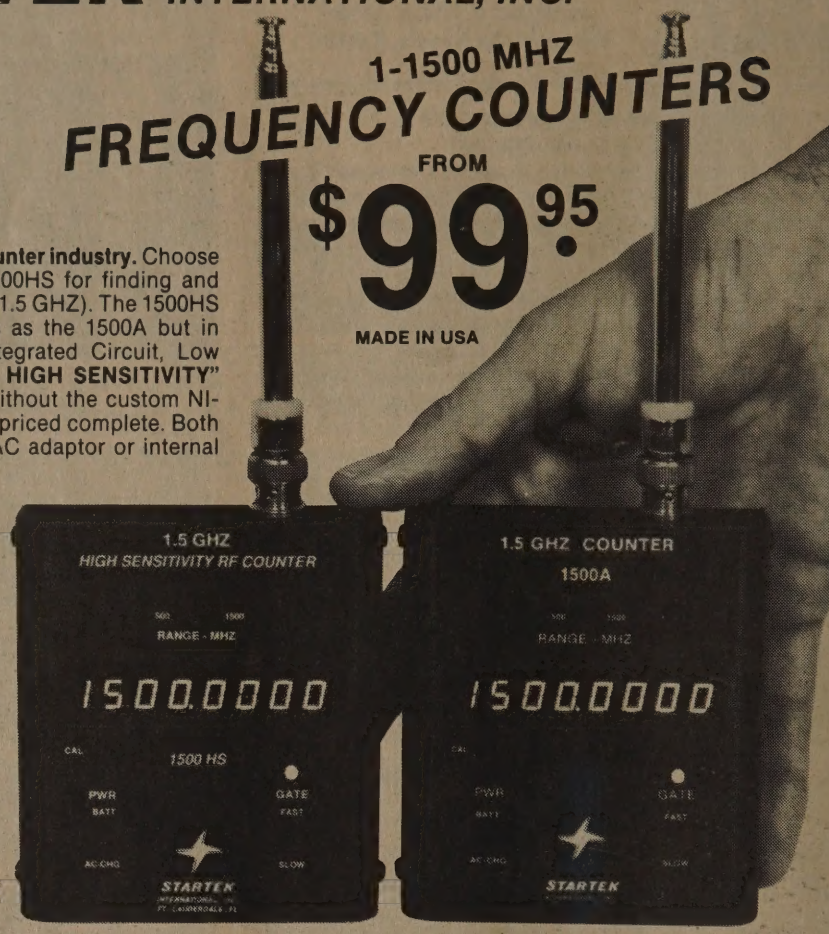

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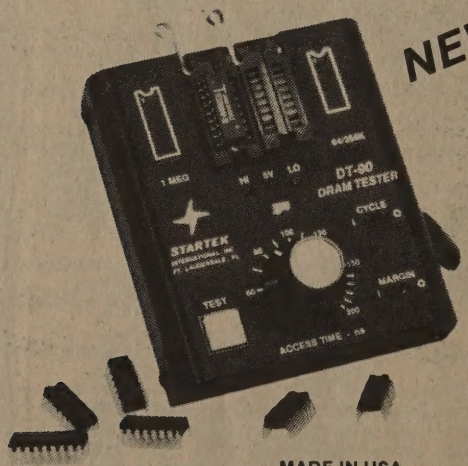

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THE DEAR MABEL AWARD.

Dear Elizabeth:

I would like to nominate my XYL, Tina Olton, N6WHJ, for the XYL Award.

When we were first married, I promised her that we would climb mountains and cross oceans together. Many years later, part of that shared dream began to come ture. We bought a boat, fixed it up, studied the charts, made endless lists of things to do and take, and finally, on March 3, 1990, departed for the South Pacific, returning on September 21st, almost seven months later.

During the route-planning phase, I noticed that with a few changes to the usual route we could pass by some moderately rare DX QTHs. Now, Tina is a ham (mainly because I nagged her into it, arguing the safety aspects while we were at sea), but definitely not a DXer. I, on the other ham, am an avid DXer, so this was a chance of a lifetime.

The changes would mean we would have to sail several thousand miles upwind, battering into the waves (and maybe one or two storms), but after a lot of, uh, discussion, and my yielding on one or two places (okay, we don't go to Christmas Island, and we won't go to Kingman Reef, if we can go to Palmyra and the North Cooks), Tina agreed. As she was to point out on numerous occasions later, she didn't know what she was getting into.

The first place I set up a station on shore was at Tahuata, a beautiful island in the Marquesas. Tina helped me row ashore, but just as we arrived, a wave caught us, flipped the dinghy and dumped us both, ruining two expensive cameras in the process. Later she made several dinghy trips to bring me equipment (carefully double-bagged . . . now), then swam ashore to help me erect the Butternut vertical. While I was on the radio, she and our 15-year-old daughter (Holly) swam, read and enjoyed the scenery (I guess).

At Kauehi, in the Tuamotus, she again did dinghy-ferry duty. Moorea and Penrhyn, in the North Cooks, were easier for her because I operated as a guest at other ham's shacks, but Palmyra was way above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty. You can only get permission to operate at one small islet, or motu, in the southwest corner of the atoll, a half-hour dinghy ride from the part where all the cruising boats anchor. With only the one dinghy, that meant Tina had to take me there and pick me up each time I operated.

Squalls are frequent, which meant that occasionally she was drenched. Worse, the islet (called Home Island) is surrounded by a reef about half a mile wide which dries out at low tide. This means that access, even by dinghy, is limited to a couple of hours either side of high tide. If you're late, or miscalculate the tides (as, I blush to admit, I did a few times) you end up walking the last half-mile, towing the dinghy behind you — or even worse, dragging it. This was exasperating enough for poor Tina, but I think the bottom came on the days when she not only had to walk and tow the dinghy, but also had to keep kicking away the sharks that were nibbling at her heels!

Here, of all places, I had equipment problems which kept me off the air for six days, so I asked if we could extend our time there for a like amount of time. This was very upsetting to our daughter, who was ready to leave (all of the boys had), but Tina negotiated a statesman-like compromise; we would stay for three more days! And yes, we had headwinds all the way to Palmyra, and all the way from there to Hawaii, on top of which we had to dodge Hurricane Aka and a few mini-hurricanes, and finally got caught in a tropical depression that formed around us. It was good Dxing, though!

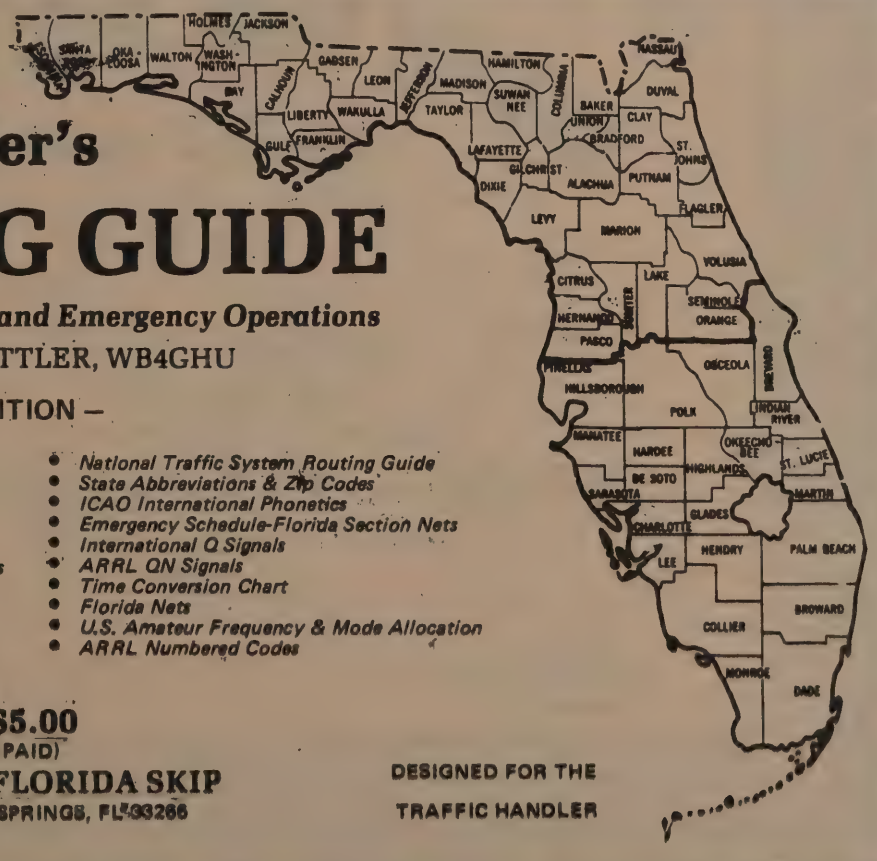
I should add that, back home, she of course does the usual XYL things, but more as well. Now that I've got a new beam and amplifier, she even fends off the complaints from the neighbors about interference!

I could add even more evidence, but I think from the above you'll agree that not only am I extremely lucky, Tina unquestionably deserves the XYL Award!

Sincerely yours,
Stephen R. Salmon, AA6LF
(also FO0SST, ZK1XP, etc.)

P.S.: A videotape of our adventures is available for loan if you know of any clubs, etc., that might be interested.

Florida Traffic Handler's ROUTING GUIDE



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KNIGHTS OF THE KILOCYCLE

By Bob, W4KOG

3910 Kc. Sunday Morning 1130 Z. 0730 Edt.

It's that time of year again!!! Field Day is upon us again, and it looks like it's already started out with a screw-up somewhere.

After being on the last weekend of June for lo these many years, the ARRL saw fit to move it up a week. I'll bet there's a lot of downshifting out there to reschedule and revise reservations to make up for that lost week. I wonder if they really know what they're doing??? Oh well!!! I'm sure everyone will recover.

We're planning on taking all the marbles this year!!! We have a prime location lined up and have all-possible problems covered this year — we can't miss!!! (See next months article for a full report, and list of excuses.)

Haven't heard anything on the air about any of the members who might have gone to the Dayton Hamfest this year. In fact, I haven't heard much about it at all— I've never gotten to Dayton. I'd sure like to make it some year, but on the other hand, it's probably getting so big that you couldn't enjoy it. Maybe next year!!!

Meanwhile, the Melbourne Hamfest is coming up in a couple of months . . .

I recently came across a list of the Knights of the Kilocycle members in 1947, shortly after they resumed after the war. There was a total of 65 calls. We recently issued number 514 to John Walters, WB9SUJ, of Eustice. Wonder where all the rest of the members are???

Happy birthdays go to Art, KN4JM; Harley, K4CMK; and Jim, W4JM. Anniversary congrats to Andy, W4IYT and his XYL.

Best of luck to all the Knights headed north for the summer and also hope George, W4MDV gets his license problems solved.

CU next month.

FM P. 9 QWCA

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER 12 Q.C.W.A.

By Recording Secretary Sid Wolfeld, KJ4AS

Twenty-three members and guests attended our regular monthly meeting on Saturday, April 20th at Denny's Restaurant in Northwest Miami.

A 55-Year QCWA Award was made to Jim Pilafian, KE4KK by Vice President Harry Pilafian, W4SQG (Jim's brother).

Andy Clark, W4IYT made announcement of a new bill recently passed in Tallahassee which prohibits counties and municipalities in Florida from restricting construction and erection of an amateur radio antenna and towers. The bill, HR CS/HB 203, has a far-reaching effect for amateur radio operation in the State of Florida, in general, and may also be applicable to those hams residing in condominiums.

Andy Clark and Harry Pilafian presented an HBO video tape entitled "Remember When" which covered the history of radio broadcasting from Marconi's early experiments in 1901 through the formation and organization of NBC and CBS. Many historical events in which radio played a major part in disseminating information to the world were shown on the tape. Notable among these was the sinking of the "Titanic," the "Hindenburg" disaster, Pearl Harbor and extensive coverage of World War II and the Korean conflict. Dick Cavett hosted the HBO presentation.

The chapter meets every third Saturday in the month at 12 noon at Denny's Restaurant on 36th Street, adjacent to the Palmetto Expressway. We offer outstanding ham camaraderie, interesting speakers and presentations and a 50/50 cash drawing. Guests are cordially invited.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE
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FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO JOURNALISM
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EDITED BY: Andy Clark, W4IYT
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Dated April 1, 1991
Vice-President A.R.N.S.
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President, A.R.N.S.
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FLORIDA ARMY M.A.R.S. NEWS
By Lorraine S. Matthew, AAT4JK

As the coming of spring breathes new life into the world around us, we can appreciate with renewed enthusiasm the power of communication. Communication is the key, of course, to our work in MARS. More than that, communication is the key to teaching, learning, indeed, to living in all its aspects.

Our featured staff member this month communicates with young men through his work with the Boy Scouts, he communicates with MARS members and, through MARS, to the world at large. At the 32nd Annual Scoutmaster's Camporee held in Ft. Lauderdale, he carried the message of amateur radio to the Boy Scouts.

What better group is there to generate future hams and future MARS members?

Hoisy Hoisington, AAR4OU wears two hats for Florida Army MARS — one as the assistant training officer, the other as the editor of QUA. When asked what he does as a Florida Army MARS staff member, he sent the following information.

As the assistant training officer he fills in for AAR4OC, the state training officer, and makes suggestions through him for action by members in the State of Florida. With a background as a long-time professional teacher with the National Staff of the Boy Scouts of America, he has expertise in training adult volunteer leadership. His technique of telling, showing and watching performance is carefully monitored in the MARS "over the air" training.

He tries never, as we all do, to embarrass anyone. If an error is made, he feels that correction should be made immediately so that the error does not become an ingrained habit. His learners are always directed to the source material in the field manual. Questions and discussions are encouraged.

Each member of MARS has benefitted from Hoisy's skills and interest.

As the editor of QUA, Hoisy assembles material from all the members who contribute items. He then listens to as many nets as possible for the "human interest" items which may arise giving that warm and personal touch to the newsletter. With all the materials assembled, it is organized, space allotted, typed, pasted and sent off to the printer. After the printer is finished, there is still collating the pages, the folding and stamping. His wife Gladys, is a great help with this.

The QUA is not a one-man operation. Bert, AAA4FL sends the SMD Message for the front page; Ted, AAR4NV sends the participation information; and other members send in items which would be of interest and assistance to all MARS members.

The publishing of QUA is a "labor of love" for Florida Army MARS. It is published because the MARS members want it and are willing to support it with materials and contributions for its costs.

The Newberry Hamfest was held on April 20th and was quite a successful affair. Bill, AAV4DP arranged to have a MARS table which set exactly the tone that is most desirable. It was attractive, informative and served as a gathering place for MARS members to meet. In a relaxed atmosphere, the table made clear that MARS is still in operation and is ready to serve.

A sidelight to the Newberry Hamfest: Deacon, AAR4IY attended and while there, parked in a very convenient place in back of the building. As a result of rain that night, a 12-foot by 14-foot sinkhole opened up exactly where he had been parked.

Dedication to the work of MARS was certainly shown one weekend by Kent, AAT4OT, a new member at the time. His barbecue was warmed up, ready for luscious steaks while he monitored the evening net. He heard a listing of traffic for Tallahassee. He could handle that. He checked in. The sending station requested an alternate frequency. He could handle that. The bands were poor, but he soon got the news that it was 77 messages for Tallahassee! With band conditions, there was no way those messages would be sent on the air. Off went the barbecue, back to the freezer went the steaks and down to Port St. Joe he drove. It took two days and the help of several local operators, but the messages were successfully passed. That's dedication!

The South Florida DX Club always displays a beautifull booth at the Miami HAMBOREE. Shown are members ready to meet the mob in 1992. (Photo via W4WJ R.)

FILLING OUT Q.S.L. CARDS
By Tom Lewis, N4TL

Sending and receiving QSL cards is a big part of working DX. Cards need to be filled out correctly so they can be used for DXCC and other awards. The basic information needed on a card is your call, name and QTH.

The county should be on it for any county hunters.

Collecting Grid Squares is popular with some DXers so that should be on it also.

Information that needs to be filled in after a contact is made is: the call of the station worked, the date and time in UTC, the band, the signal report and the mode. The date is written in a different order in some countries. So it is good to have a box with "day-month-year" printed on it. The person reading the card will not have to guess at which is the day and which is the month.

If a mistake is made when the card is filled out, throw it away and fill out a new one. A corrected card is not acceptable for DXCC. The person who checks the card will not know who made the change, so it will not be accepted. The handwriting should be legible and don't forget to sign or initial the card.

Also, don't use water color pens. If the mail man gets caught in the rain and the envelopes and card get wet, it may not be readable.

Now that the card is properly filled out, how will it be sent? There are a number of ways to send the card. The cost and speed varies with each.

The bureau system is a low-cost way of sending and receiving DX QSL cards, but it's slow. The speed will range from two to three months up to many years. The incoming bureau, is a volunteer service. The workers sort and mail the cards on their own time. To save space, QST does not publish information on the bureau system every month. When the information is carried, it is in the column "QSL Corner."

The ARRL has an outgoing QSL service. You must be a member to use it. For every pound of cards sent (about 155 cards) it costs one dollar. This service does not go to all countries. The ARRL sells a country list that lists which countries are supported by this service.

There are other ways to send cards, but there's not enough space this month to cover them. More in the future.

Regretfully, the verdict on Bob, AAR4QH is not a good one. The irony of his situation is that he has never smoked a cigarette in his life. His doctors say his cancer is caused solely by second-hand smoke. I am deeply concerned about MARS friends who smoke. Please think about it . . . for those you love . . . for those who love you . . . for yourself.

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SPECIAL SALE

Florida SKIP has some new back issues of the 5th Edition of FLORIDA TRAFFIC HANDLERS Routing Guides on hand, edited by Andy Clark, W4IYT. To clear out this Guide, we are selling them for $2.50 each plus 50 cent postage and handling. The Traffic Guide contains everything the 6th edition has plus a centerfold map of Florida with city location chart. If you want 2 for $5.00 we will pay all postage & handling. FLORIDA SKIP PO Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

DIRECTORY

ATTENTION ALL FLORIDA Q.C.W.A. CHAPTERS

Florida Skip will be publishing a directory of any QCWA chapter in Florida. Send me Eli Nannis, K4JMH, 14996 Imperial Point Drive North, Largo, Florida 34644.

FLORIDA STATE Q.C.W.A. NET

The Florida State QCWA Net meets everySaturdaymorning at 8:00 a.m. on 3955 KHz.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Central Florida Chapter meets all year-round at the Sizzler Steakhouse, 3105 U.S. Highway 98 North, near I-4, Lakeland, Florida. They meet the third Saturday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Frank La Londe, W4PBL, 3840 Charter Road, Lakeland, Florida 33809 or phone him at (813) 858-8346.

FLORALA CHAPTER

The Florala meets the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon at the Hickory House Restaurant, Ft. Walton Square Shopping Center, 99 Eglin Parkway, Northeast.

For more information contact John Zwaska, W4WKQ, (904) 651-1607.

GATOR CHAPTER

The Gator Chapter meets the first Saturday of each month at Stacey's Buffet on Missouri Avenue, Midway Shopping Center, Clearwater at 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Eli Nannis, K4JMH at (813) 595-3111 or at 14996 Imperial Point Drive, North, Largo, Florida 34644.

HALIFAX CHAPTER 125

Covers: Flagler County, Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, Holly Hill, New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater.

Meet: Second Saturday of every month.

Where: Prime Steak and Seafood Restaurant, Volusia (Route 92) near I-95, Daytona Beach.

For Information: Call President Al Schutrum, K2HWF, (904) 672-2324 or Secretary Jack Resnick, W4OKE, (904) 673-0931. Or write: P.O. Box 926, Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

PALM BEACH CHAPTER 111

The Palm Beach Chapter of QCWA meets at the Picadilly Restaurant at Northlake Boulevard and Alternate AIA (10th Avenue) in Lake Park at 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

For information contact: Bob McDow, W4KOG at (407) 848-2352.

PELICAN CHAPTER

The Pelican Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Family Homestyle Buffet at Tyrone Gardens on 1035 58th Street, North, St. Petersburg. The time is 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Jay Strom, K9BSL, 233 34th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704; 822-9107.

F.C.C. INFORMATION PAGE

AUBURNDALE AREA

W5YI exams, technical through extra, are to be held on the third Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. They will be held in the First Presbyterian Church on 410 Pilaklakaha Avenue (PK Avenue), Auburndale, Florida. Between Winter Haven and Lakeland on Highway 92. Turn off 92nd on Ariana Avenue, go two stop signs and turn left on PK Avenue. It's the second building on right.

Walk-ins accepted on test available basis. Reservations requested. There is a fee of $5.25 for tech through extra.

For information contact: Pete Salvage at (813) 646-2526 or Bill Loop at (813) 967-5952.

BREVARD COUNTY

ARRL/VEC exams by Consolidated V.E.'s of Brevard County — Room Q-22 — Florida Institute of Technology — Melbourne — 10:00 a.m. (check-in 0930) — third Saturday of every month.

No pre-registration required. Form 610 provided. Bring original and photocopy of current license.

HIALEAH

W5YI coordinated tests — novice through extra, every third Saturday of month at 8 p.m. Due to space limitations pre-registration is encouraged. Fee is $4.95.

Contact Ivan Prada, KP4EDL at (305) 829-0602 from 7 to 9 p.m. for more information.

SUNRISE

CAVEC exams by Racal-Milgo in Sunrise twice per month; on the first Saturday at 8:45 a.m. and on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1601 N.W. 136th Avenue (North Harrison Parkway).

No pre-registration required.

Bring: the original and one copy of your license, the original of any credit certificate (or copy of FCC Form 610 for novice credit), proof of identity (driver's license with photo, etc.) and $2 (except novice which is free).

For further information call: Chip Allen, AK4Y at his home at 476- 8761; or Joe Loewy, KB4FO either at his home 434-8211 or work 846-4567. For 24-hour recorded information call 846-4444.

Talk-in on 145.270 (Tx 600 KHz).

CITRUS COUNTY

License exams are scheduled for the third Saturday in the odd numbered months at 8:30 a.m. at the Citrus County Emergency Operations Center on West Southern Street in Lecanto. (West off C.R. 491, one-quarter mile north of S.R. 44.)

Reservations preferred, walk-ins accepted while supplies last. Bring original ham license and photocopy, certificates for prior exam credits if any, photo identification as **driver's license, pen & pencils and $5.25 fee. Phone Dwight, KJ4AP, (904) 746-4306 for reservations and information.**

Crestview:

FCC exams are given the second Saturday of each third month (February, May. August and November) at 9:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging Building, 298 South Wilson Street, Crestview, Florida. Fee $5.25. Walk-ins welcome. Bring original and copy of license, and a photo identification. For more information contact Bill Pate, WB4ORK. Route 1, Box 189, Crestview, Florida; telephone (904) 682-0539.

DADE CITY AREA

W5YI exams — technician through extra class (novice exams by reservation only) are conducted the third Wednesday of each month except December, in the Tampa Electric Company, Community Room, 602 East Meridian Avenue (two blocks east of Highway 301) in Dade City, Florida at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the original and a photocopy of your current license, any CSCE and a $5.00 fee.

Form 610 will be furnished and pre-registration is recommended. Exams by appointment will be conducted for those persons with special needs.

Contact Dan Wilson, AB4LN at (904) 521-3494 or (904) 583-5120 evenings and weekends for further information.

DADE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

Exams will be held at the Dade County Emergency Operations Center, 5600 S.W. 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33173, at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Walk-in exams on test available basis. Bring a photocopy of your current license, photo identification, pen and pencil and a $4.75 check payable to ARRL/VEC. FCC Form 610 available at exam.

For further information contact Tom Sherwood, AL7HW at 255-3170 after 5:00 p.m.

NORTH DADE — SOUTH BROWARD AREA

FCC exams are given on the fourth Thursday of each month by a W5YI-VEC team at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Fellowship Amateur Radio Club at Ingall's Park in Hallandale at 735 S.W. 1st Street.

No charge for novice . . . all others $5.25.

Bring the original of your license, a photocopy and positive identification.

For more information call Howard, N4EBT at 935-5214 or Norm, K4RBR at 823-5437 (evenings).

V.E.C. 1990 EXAM SCHEDULE

Fort Walton Beach:

ARRL/VEC exams by Playground ARC, are held quarterly at the clubhouse — 17 East First Street, Fort Walton Beach. The 1990 dates are March 10th, June 9th, September 8th and December 8th. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome. Fee is $4.95. For futher information contact Bill Hord, W4WIJ at (904) 243-9720; or Hal Byrd, WG4X at (904) 243-0882.

WEST PASCO COUNTY

The Suncoast Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring W5YI-VEC exam sessions on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The exam location is the Pasco County Building, 530 Sunset Road, New Port Richey (just east of U.S. 19 — one mile south of the Pithlachascotee River Bridge).

Pre-registration is strongly advised, and the deadline is the Saturday preceding the exam date, thereafter, walk-ins will be accpeted on a materials availability basis.

Talk-in on 145.350 (Tx-600).

Remember to bring with you, two forms of identification, originals and copies of your license and CSCE's if any and the $5.25 fee required for the technical through extra exams.

For registration and/or information call: Marv Borngraber, WC2G, (813) 938-7810.

HERNANDO COUNTY EXAMS

The Hernando Volunteer Examining Council (HERVEC) with Clover Leaf ARC and Spring Hill ARC co-sponsors are conducting monthly exams novice through extra, each third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Springfield High School in Spring Hill. The Clover Leaf Visitor's Center in Brooksville is the alternate exam site.

Walk-ins are welcome.

For information contact Paul Sauer, K4ZC at (904) 683-3167.

LAKE COUNTY — CENTRAL FLORIDA

W5YI-VEC exams will be held on the following Saturdays in 1991: April 20th, May 18th, July 20th, September 21st, October 19th and November 16th. Test time is 9:30 a.m.

The location is the Lake Amateur Radio Association Clubhouse, just west of Tavares, Florida. Go two miles west of Tavares on U.S. Highway 441 to CR 473. North one mile on CR 473 to the Haines Creek Baptist Church. The clubhouse and 180-foot tower are behind the church.

Walk-ins permitted.

Bring a copy of ham license, copies of any certificates of successful completion of exam and positive identification. Cost is $5.25 for 1991.

Talk-in on 147.255, K4FC, repeater.

For information contact Paul, K3NON at (904) 343-8729 or Millie, KQ4R at (904) 343-0075.

MARION COUNTY FLORIDA

Tests are given the second Monday of every second month (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 7:00 p.m. (sharp) . . . novice through extra. Walk-ins are welcome.

The location is the Green Clover Hall in the Marion County Government Complex off Route 40 on Ft. King and 25th Avenue in Ocala, Florida.

Bring $4.95 and a copy of license.

For more information call R. Brenner, KA4RWB at (904) 237-5783 or write to 5690 S.W. 36th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 32674 and send a SASE for a reply.

OCALA/CENTRAL FLORIDA

W5YI exams are held each month (except November and December) on the last Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 2802 N.E. 7th Street, Ocala, Florida.

All exams, novice through extra, are given on a walk-in basis. Fee is $4.75. Novices are free. Talk-in is available on 145.130 repeater.

For information contact Jim, KA2MBE at (904) 236-0744; or Joe, KA4WJB at (904) 351-0985.

PALM BEACH AREA

The Palm Beach Amateur Radio Council and Palm Beach Community College Amateur Radio Club are giving amateur radio license tests on the third Saturday of each month (except October is at hamfest) at 9:00 a.m. at Palm Beach Community College, 4200 Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, in Criminal Justice Room 101, for $5.25 in 1991 (I-95 and Sixth Avenue South and go west).

Walk-ins permitted as long as we have test materials available.

October is on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. at Palm Beach County Hamfest at South Florida Fair Grounds on State Road 80 (Southern Boulevard) — west of Turnpike (no exit).

PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

1991 remaining test dates are July 13th and October 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Acme Lodge on 230 McKenzie Avenue, Panama City.

Make checks payable to ARRL-VEC for $5.25.

For information contact Charles Hickman, N4DPU, 2402 West 21st Street, Panama City; (904) 785-0449.

BOCA RATON

The Siemens Amateur Radio Club sponsors ARRL/VEC coordinated exams the third Friday every month at 17:30 hours, except December which will be the second Friday. The tests will be given at the Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Room 8207, Boca Raton.

Pre-registration is recommended, but walk-ins are accepted if testing materials are available. Novice exams are free . . . all others are $4.95.

Bring a photo identification, your original license and a copy and the original and a copy of any CSCE's. All forms are provided.

Contact Ron Diego at (407) 994-7168 during business hours or (407) 487-1726 evenings and weekends for more information or to pre-register.

PENSACOLA

CAVEC exams will be held on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The location is the West Florida Hospital in the cafeteria.

For further information contact Bill, WA4YRN at (904) 476-8537 at his home or (904) 474-8328 at his workplace.

PORT SAINT LUCIE AREA

Fort Pierce, Florida • Saint Lucie County

The Fort Pierce ARC is sponsoring ARRL/VEC's each month on the fourth Saturday, at the Saint Lucie Emergency Operations Center. Go west of I-95. Pass Highway 713 to Rock Road. It is on the right-hand side.

Register at 9:00 a.m. and the test will be given at 9:30 a.m.

Details from Fred Newmann W2EUX 407 340-1069

DUNEDIN — TAMPA BAY AREA

W5YI-VEC coordinated amateur radio exams are conducted by the Dunedin ARC/VE testing team on the first Monday of every month. If the first Monday is a holiday, then the tests are held on the second Monday.

Testing begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Foreign Language Building, Number 99, Dunedin High School, 1615 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin.

Remember to bring with you, two forms of identification, originals and copies of your license and CSCE's if any and the $4.95 fee required for the tech through extra exams. Talk-in on 145.110 or 145.310 (Tx-600).

For registration and/or information call WC2G at (813) 938-7810 or W8RH at (813) 535-2034. Mailing address is: P.O. Box 1851, Dunedin, Florida 34697.

TAMPA EVENING TESTING

W5YI-VEC exams will be held the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (except November and December). Sessions will be replaced by one date in early December due to holidays. (Phone for exact date during November.)

Testing location is the second floor of the American Red Cross Building, 217 North Howard Avenue, Tampa.

Novice exams are free. All others $4.75 cash. Bring with you the original and a photocopy of your current license and original and photocopies of CSCE's, if any.

To resolve questions or obtain holiday season dates contact Scott, KA4FRO at (813) 685-2514.

QCWA CITRUS CHAPTER

The QCWA Citrus Chapter meets on the third Saturday of each month at Stacey's Buffet in Altamonte Springs at noon.

For more information contact Don Fisher, W4PLA, 143 Hilltop Place, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701; phone (407) 331-0456.

Royal Palm Chapter QCWA, No. 152.

Meeting Place: Elks Club, Airport Road, Naples.

Meeting Time: 11:30 a.m., second Tuesday of each month.

President: George G. Slade, W1GOG, 4617 Lakewood Boulevard, Naples, FL 33962; (813) 793-3533.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

The Southeast Chapter meets on the third Saturday of each month at noon at Denny's Restaurant, 7411 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida 33166.

For more information contact Art Rauch, W4VZ, 10950 S.W. 105th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33176-3435; (305) 274-9709.

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

The Suncoast Chapter meets the first Thursday of the month, October through May at the House of Chong on the west side of Route 41 — just south of the junction of Route 72 — at 11:30 a.m.

For inforamtion contact: Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF, at (813) 485-7928.

TREASURE COAST CHAPTER

The Treausre Coast Chapter meets the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Vero Beach Inn, Route A1A.

For more information contact Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. W.R. Staples, W4SME, P.O. Box 782202, Sebastian, Florida 32978; (407) 664-6750.

SUWANNEE CHAPTER NO. 62

DIRECTORY LISTING FOR 'FLORIDA SKIP'

The Suwannee Chapter No. 62 meets the fourth Thursday of the months of February, April, June, August and October, and the second Thursday in December at Don's Smorgasbord on 36th Avenue, one block south of Silver Springs Boulevard, in Ocala, Florida. The time is 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Ray Chartier, W1RFE at (904) 694-5439.

ORLANDO AREA EXAMS

FCC exams for all classes will be given the second Saturday of June, September and December at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Maitland. The exact dates are: June 8th, September 14th and December 14th.

Remember to bring with you two forms of identification, FCC license and copy of it and copies of any CSCE's when you come.

CAVEC exams will cost $5.00 and ARRL exams will be $5.25, depending upon which VEC coordinates the session.

For information call: Roy, N4ADI, (407) 644-5905.

MY TRIBUTE

By Ruth Hoffman, N4LMC

At the age of 11 excitement reigned supreme. The year was 1919 and Ed Ricca listened to an experimental broadcast station from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (XDKA). The New York American, a local newspaper, published a schematic diagram for a galena crystal set capable of hearing this station. Ed gathered the parts, built the set and with the use of a 200-foot long wire he was able to hear them, using a pair of headphones. What fun he had building his own set.

Four years later his uncle gave him a job as an apprentice electrician, and in 1928 he decided to become an amateur radio operator. In subsequent years however, marriage and the responsibilities that go with it, had to take first place and there was no time to concentrate and study the code.

June 21, 1941 was a great, fun day in the life of Ed Ricca when he finally received his call, W2OCL, and he made his first contact on 7083. At that time there was no novice licensing and the class "B" license gave you CW Morse privileges on 40 meters only.

After one year as class "B" you could take the test for class "A" which he did and this brought him full amateur privileges.

With the advent of talking pictures he became a licensed motion picture operator and in 1956 he took the position as chief projectionist on the luxury liner "Independence" where he operated as W2OCL/mm.

The extra class license W2VY was issued to Ed in 1968 and W2OCL was relinquished. A few years later nostalgia overcame him and he petitioned for W2OCL and cancelled W2VY.

With the move to Florida he was issued the call K4PT. At that time the FCC allowed you to have two calls, however a short time later the rules changed and he had to cancel W2OCL.

Retirement in 1974 introduced him to golf and he continues as a golf addict.

In an interview with Ed Ricca he states that he can still remember the excitement and fun as he made his first contact via CW Morse, on this homebrew, one crystal set, on frequency 7083.

The excitement is still with him as he continues to make his mark in the amateur community. He has many commendations from commanders of ships for whom he has done phone patches. He now serves as manager of the Intercontinental Traffic Net and has held this position for six years.

Through all the chaos on 20 meters he remains a "fearless leader," and is having fun making contacts around the world.

At this time he enjoys the position of communications officer of Flotilla 75 USCG auxiliary. He is a charter member of the Tiler Elks Lodge 2674 and past president of the South Hillsborough Amateur Radio Klub (SHARK).

Jeanette and Ed have two children, Richard, K2BDY, is residing in Manila working in Industrial Security, Far East Division; and their daughter Judith a major in computer processing, resides in Silver Springs, Maryland.

June 21, 1991 is the 50th anniversary of the first contact made by K4PT. On this date Ed will be operating CW Morse on 7083 and special QSL cards will be sent confirming this contact. Check in with him and extend your congratulations.

A LITTLE STORY

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure the Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

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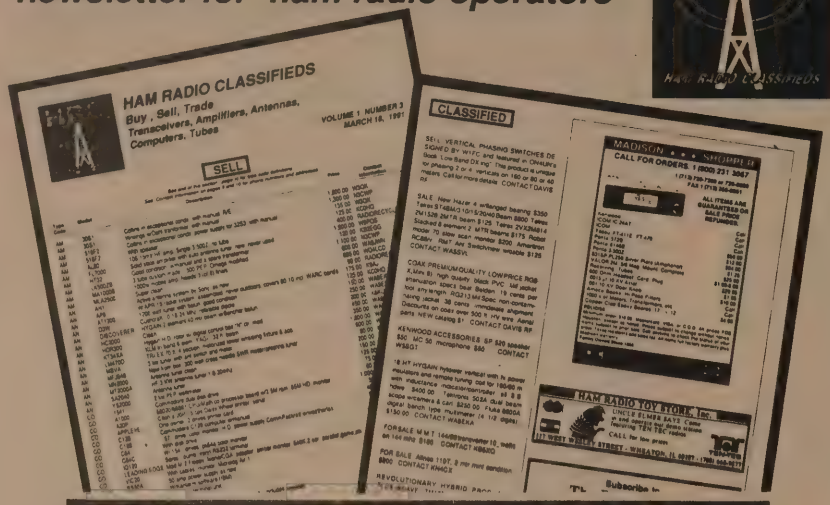

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NEW 440 MHZ REPEATER MAP

After much delay and hard work, Florida Skip now has a 440 MHz MAP listing all Repeaters in Florida! The map editor, Harlin Cohn, W4UIM in Miami did a very nice job on this map. It is much like our 2 Meter Map except it is printed on light green paper. You will be amazed at the number of 440 Repeaters Florida now has! I was! The price is the same as our 2 Meter Map, 25 cents each with your self-addressed stamped envelope. (Don't forget the stamp!) To: 440 Map, Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266. (Note: The 2 and 440 Maps will go in one envelope for 22 cents postage.)

A NO-CODE HAM LICENSE

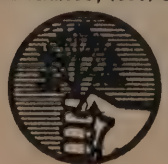
Prospective amateur radio operators or hams, now can get a satisfying taste of the hobby without passing a Morse Code Test . . . learning the code has long been an obstacle for many people.

To earn the new Technician Class License, launched February 14th by the Federal Communications Commission, applicants take a 55-question, multiple-choice exam covering basic electronics and on-the-air operating procedures. The license allows you to chat with other hams on radio frequencies above 30 MHz. To earn privileges below 30 MHz, where most long-distance contacts are made, you'll need to demonstrate proficiency in Morse Code.

The American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111, has study guides: "Tune in the World with Ham Radio ($14.00), "The ARRL Technician License Manual" ($6.00) and "The FCC Rule Book" ($9.00). Add $4.00 for U.S. postage; $5 for UPS.

The ARRL also has information on tests around the country, given by ham volunteers for a modest $5.25.

Beginners pay from $200 to $400 for walkie-talkies that let them communicate above 30 MHz. For a free catalog, you can call specialty shops like Electronic Equipment Bank in Vienna, Virginia, (800) 368-3270 or Amateur Electronics Supply in Milwaukee, (800) 558-0411.



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Deadline for all HAMBARS and ads, eighth (8th) of each month in P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, Florida 33266. Normal mailing date 25th of each month. Thank you for your cooperation.

—Editor.

COMMODORE 64 repair fast turn around. Southern Techn0-logies Amateur Radio, 10715 SW 190 St. No. 9, Miami, FL 33157 305 238-3327.

WANTED: Tri-band with 40 meter beam, 40 meter beam, Hammarlund HQ-145. Knight T-50, Commordore 1571. Don Trayes WB4CVH, Box 102 Security, NAS Cecil Field, FL 32215 904 799-2428.

KENWOOD TS940ATw/ filters $1350. SM-220 W/ Pan Adapter $350. Both 1987 models in excellent condition with ops and service manuals. Prefer pickup at my QTH. Ken Sebok KK4NK, 18823 SE Jupiter River Dr., Jupiter, FL 33458 407 744-2794

FT901DM Yaeasu transceiver, 160 to 10 meters, Digital & analog frequency readouts. AC & DC power supplies built-in, 180 watts. New mike & manual. Optimized by International Radio Shops, Asking $425. OBO. Stan Bittner W4JKK, 10821 SW 67 Ct., Miami, FL 33156 305 667-2417.

A KIND WORD IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT WORD... ZGG.

AZDEN REPAIR, fast turn around. Southern Technologies Amateur Radio, 10715 SW 190th St. No. 9 Miami, FL 33157 305 238-3327.

SELL: CDR HAM M Rotator, excellent condition. $95.00 WANTED: VACUUM condensor Jennings UCSL-1000. Elmer Shafer, N8ES, 3479 Kersdale Rd., Pepper Pike, OH 44124 216 831-9198.

FOR SALE: 1 M.C. Jones Micra Match $20. 1-3 meter CB tester, Modulation, power, SWR Radio Shack Cat. No. 21-522 $15. (new) Collins S line complete 312B-4, station control 516F-2 power supply, 75S3 receiver, 32S3 Xmtr 30L1 Amp. All $800.00 Dick McCoy W4ZPO, 20161 NW 15 Ave Miami, FL 33169 305 683-0082. PICK UP ONLY.

Computer stuff for SALE. 10 inch amber screen monitor $35. Commodore 1351 mouse $25. Joystick $3. Ampros- and Commodore 4 position cart. port expander $10. 80 column Commodore cable $15. Norm Ward K4RBR, 18811 W. Oakmont Dr., Miami, FL 33015 305 823-5437.

A SMART GIRL IS ONE WHO DOESN'T TRUST A HUSBAND TOO FAR OR A BACHELOR TOO NEAR!...

SCANNERS OWNERS. Uniden America Corp. 9900 Westpoint Dr. Box 501368, Indianapolis, IN 46250 317 842-2483 has bought out BEARCAT SCANNERS' UNIDEN America will service broken BEARCATS. Call 317 842-2483 EXT. 592 and get full details...INFO thanks to John Fontaine..

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Marine D/F "Gulfstream," A.C. or internal batteries. Covers AM/FM beacon, Marine HF/VHF and weather bands. Fluke 885AB differential voltmeter, needs new nicads. MFJ 949B 300 watt antenna tuner. Each equipment $65. or trade for AM and C.W. filters for Kenwood 930. Marshall Goldblatt, W4EMB, 11801 S.W. 70 Ave., Miami, FL 33156 305 666-6997.

NEED TUBES?? Have huge inventory, including 3-500Z 572B's etc. Call or FAX for price quotes. Also buy tubes, D & C Electronics, Dick Gross, N1BGL, 3089 Daltona Blvd., Springs Hill, FL 34606 904 688-2374 FAX 904 683-9595.

BUY & SELL COMMERCIAL VIDEO AUDIO & MICRO-WAVE EQUIPMENT. Call W2EDN, Bob Brown, 140, Lenape Dr., Miami Springs, FL 33166 305 884-8686 Day or 883-8669 nite.

PEOPLE WHO SNORE ALWAYS FALL ASLEEP FAST...

NEED: Zero to 1 Amp. D.C. meter. Victor Lopez, N4ICP 16610 SW 99 Ave., Miami, FL 33157-3246 305 378-9496.

NEW RADIO BUFFS SPECIALS' AMERICAS BEST: Ten-TecOMNI V $1850.00 Paragon $1850. New Delta $1399.00 Argonaut QRP $1199. 961 power supply $219. Hercules II $1190. Titan $2,635. Auto tuner $899. Japan Radio Co. JRC 135HP $2,499.oo JRC 135Standred $1,599.oo NRD 525 $999. NRD 535 $1,599.00 Ask for price on all accessproes. We also carry ICOM, MFJ, B&W, AMECO, COMET, KLM/Mirage, SPI-RO, Sangean, AOR Scanners, and many more amateur radio items. CALL HENRY N4ED Q at Radio BuffsAmateur Radio Sales, or Write: 4400 Highway 19A, Mount Dora, FL 32757 or call 1-800-828-6433 after hours FAX 904-589-5576. Our store hours are: Mon, Thru. Fri. 10 AM Till 5 PM EST.

ESTATE SALES: Kenwood 830s $650.Kenwood 520S $350. ICOM 260 with mike $150. Drake TR4 $150. Kenwood mic MC-50 $50. Mic D-104 $50. BTI Linear amp $500. Kantronics Mini Reader $100. (4) 6146 tubes $12. each. Operating pedestal desk 30X72 $100. HTV Vertical $60. U pick up. B. F. Werner K4GUC, 2622 Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 407 335-1769.

SELL: ICOM 720A trans, power supply. Mike, AM/Gen. coverage receiver with manual $550. Norm Polansky W1TTT 164 Sandpiper Ave. Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 407 969-0899.

SALE: Mint Henry 3K-A amplifier, new tubes $1000. Firm. Pick up only. Bill Thee KC8OB, 5451 Canding Ck Dr. Palm City FL 34990 407 286-4861.

ALIMONY: BOUNTY ON THE MUTINY. . . TU ZGG

WANTED: Bureau Standards Circular 74 (Circa 1920s) Radio Engineering Design data. WANT: 2 meter hand held with bill of sale, original owner. Ed Stolzenberger WB4ODL, 215 N. Birch Rd., Apt. 3D, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304 305 - 467-2957.

FOR SALE: Complete set of plans. Including Image of PC board, to build a modern day crystal set. Cost $3.00. P Anderson WOXI, RR1 Box 129A, Lawrence, KS 66044 913 842-1227.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-820 w/m-50 mike, $500. MFJ 941-C Versatuner II $60. Autek Research QF- 1ASSB/CW AM filter $50. Micronta FS meter/SWR. Tester model 21-525B $7. Palomar Tuner-tuner PT-340 $55. Hy-Gain 14-AVQ vertical $30. Hybrid Quad model HQ-1 $50. B&W FL 10/1500 filter,$20. Tuner model 254 $15. Micronta mod. 22-204A V-O-M, $20. 1987 ARRL Handbook $12.Vomax SSB-3C speech processor $50. All items to be picked up. Estate K4IJC, 40 Frangipani, Largo, FL 34640. Call 813-585-5356.

DR. CONRAD LOPENZ, A ZOOLOGIST, HAS SOLVED WHAT HAS BEEN FAFFLING SCIENCE FOR CENTURIES. DR. LORENZ ONCLUDES THAT A "WE HAVE FOUND THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN ANIMEL LIFE AND THAT OF CIVILIZED MAN. IT IS US! " Tks KF4GY.. . . .

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(CLIP AND SAVE)

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Gulf Coast ARC, Inc.
P.O. Box 595
New Port Richey, FL 34656-0595

St. Lucie Repeater Association
P.O. Box 5
Ft. Pierce, FL 34954

Dade RC, Inc.
P.O. Box 350045
Miami, FL 33135

South Florida FM Association
P.O. Box 430025
Miami, FL [illegible]243-0025

POUNDING BRASS
(continued story)
By Dan Laxson, W4DL

By 1941, CW on the airlines was in full swing, my frequencies were in the two, five and 10 MHz band with the lower frequency used at night.

Single operating positions are now multiple, with stations on the system divided among the positions.

Radio rooms were noisy and isolated to a degree. There were several telephone handsets on the wall, going to operations, reservations and outside.

Each station had a barometer, an auxiliary receiver for both airline frequencies and for monitoring the low frequency range station.

Receivers could be local or remote, the transmitters, 200 watts to three kilowatts, always remote.

Mikes were suspended in front of the operator and operated by a foot pedal, leaving both hands free. There were times when you could use a third.

In those days there was the hand key, place for your bug and the ubiquitous ash tray, where cigarettes, once lit burned up and another lit.

There were shelves for message blanks and instructional material.

Operators were required to copy on a typewriter or on the teletype machine. Messages were picked up by station personnel, split apart and sent to the various departments through pneumatic tubes. These tubes sometimes required cleaning out, candy, sneaky notes and an occasional mouse.

The old 60 words per minute typewriters came about 1940 along with an $80.00-a-month pretty girl to operate it. This machine and the later VHF repeaters along the system spelled the end of the CW operator.

Messages going through to the smaller stations were copied on the teletype direct, saving time and a message blank.

Class "A" stations with dispatchers, required radio operators to copy "off the ground" time direct from the aircraft, although the station operator was making up an operations message covering the event at the same time.

This meant little squelch, and considering summer time operations in the two MHz band, it was remarkable how the signals came through, and the noise!!

Insulation was not as good in the cockpit in early days and since the plane was CFR, the pilot slid the window open, took a look and sent in his location. It took a bit of getting use to understand some locations.

Chief operators or station managers were required to keep meter readings of the transmitters and send to the maintenance department.

Chief operators assigned the watch, and kept the station's traffic statistics. Chief operators, circuit supervisors and Superintendent of Communications all joined in making the sometimes difficult choice as to who stayed and who left.

Operators some times got caught in the, "I was closest" trap when several aircraft arriving at near the same time each claimed to be closest and wanted clearance. Leave that to the dispatcher and the tower to fight the battle.

One of the most interesting moments standing watch is listening to the pilot or co-pilot when they forgot to throw the mike switch from transmit to interphone. This can be interesting and there is no way you can tell him.

Operators were good at their jobs and sometimes prospective applicants just stood back and watched, slowly shook their heads and left.

The good ones could converse, tell jokes and never miss a dot.

We got operators by going to an adjoining airline, that had the practice of handing out Christmas bonus checks and pink slips at the same time.

THE FLORIDA REPEATER COUNCIL
By President William A. Leisner, W4MPU

I am pleased to announce the Florida Repeater Council for 1991. Below you will find the directors and officers list.

We are looking forward to a good year with a great deal of positive changes in an effort to improve the council organization and response time.

The FRC meeting in Orlando in March suggested that we make some changes that will increase the effectiveness of the council and place the directors as the contact in their respective districts.

We are encouraging the directors to conduct forums at local hamfests and club meetings. This will give members a good chance to discuss their concerns and have those matters discussed at the regular council meeting.

We are asking that all business in the district be handled through the director, any questions, requests for repeater assignments and other items. In doing this we feel that better information can be maintained on the membership and technical aspects of the council. Dues will still be sent to the treasurer as in the past.

We have closed the old mail box in Lake Worth and have forwarded the mail to the secretary. Any mail in the system will be processed by her and addressed to the proper person.

The data base is in the process of being checked and updated, as we have discovered that there are some changes in address of repeater trustees, call-signs and other items that have not been included in the present information. We would like to invite the members to drop a line to their director if they know of any changes in their area. This will be most helpful and will speed the process up a bit.

I feel we have a great crew this year and I am looking ahead to a productive year in the Florida Repeater Council.

(CLIP AND SAVE)

FLORIDA REPEATER COUNCIL, INC.

1991 DIRECTORS

District One:
Dade and Monroe
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851 N.E. 206th Street
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10065 Dasheen Avenue
Palm Beach Rardens, FL 33410
(407) 622-6751

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2261 Friday Road
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The Above Phone Numbers For Each District Are Home-Phones

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NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE
By Layton N. Ruse, W4VBQ
DCARPSC NHC Coordinator

The Thirteenth Annual National Hurricane Conference was held at the Omni Hotel in Downtown Miami on April 3-5, with a pre-conference, "Caribbean Hurricane Issues," on April 2nd. More than 200 people from many areas attended the first session, and over 675 were registered for the main meeting.

Dr. Bob Sheets, director of the U.S. National Hurricane Center, was the keynote speaker. He gave many informative and interesting talks about hurricanes, presenting much helpful information on preparing for storms and what to do after they pass. Dr. Sheets is not only a first-class expert, he can also make facts and figures entertaining.

Don Kay, K0IND, president and Jerry Herman, N3BDW, secretary-treasurer, of the Hurricane Watch Net attended the entire conference. During the Caribbean meeting, Don Kay gave a talk and slide presentation on the Watch Net, its purpose, aims and accomplishments.

Unable to attend due to health reasons was Jerry Murphy, K8YUW. Past-president and a member for 26 years, he was one of the original founders of the Watch Net. Regretfully, Jerry resigned as a board member, but we hope his health improves and that he can stay with the net for many more years.

Too many people using the Watch Net's facilities fail to realize the tremendous amount of work involved in its operation. It takes careful planning, many hours of faithful service, and sometimes the ability to go without enough sleep for as much as a week at a time. They deserve a big hand, along with some consideration.

Ernie Feist, WA4CCP, my hardworking assistant at the Hurricane Center station, W4EHW, is recuperating at home following bypass surgery. Hurry back, Ernie!

All-in-all, the Hurricane Conference seemed to be a big success, with many people learning more helpful information about amateur radio. This is one case where too much knowledge is not a dangerous thing!

A FRIEND IS ONE WHO IS A SOURCE OF SUNSHINE WHEN YOU ARE UNDER THE WEATHER. . . . via W4ZZG.

Here Andy Chapman, KE4VK Demonstrates t he use of his transceiver which he donated for the use at the Highlands County ARC booth in Sebring this year.
(Photo by WB4WDK)

JAILED HAM'S LICENSE IN JEOPARDY

The FCC has ordered Michael Harrison, WB2PTI, to show cause why his Amateur Radio license should not be revoked. Harrison is currently serving a 21-month sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution in Butner, NC, after pleading guilty on April 19 to five counts of mail fraud. Harrison also was fined $125,000.

The Order, issued by the Commission's Special Services Division, notes that "Harrison's conviction for defrauding amateur operators is clearly relevant to evaluating the likelihood that he will comply with the Communications Act and the Commission's Rules as a licensee in the amateur service."

The Communications Act gives the Commission authority to revoke station licenses for matters coming to its attention which would have prevented granting the original application.

Harrison took out advertisements in several Amateur Radio magazines (*not* including *QST*) under the name Atlas Radio, Inc., and offered Uniden products for sale. The money for the orders was received but merchandise was not shipped, according to the original fifty-count indictment.

Harrison, in a letter written recently from prison, blamed his inability to deliver radios on Uniden, who Harrison says "shipped me a few units, nowhere what I needed and what we had agreed upon," and on the U.S. Postal Service inspector who froze Harrison's account (allegedly disenabling Harrison to pay the supplier for more radios).

The ARRL Letter

FM P1 PRB-1

Support for the bill had been widely promoted on virtually all Florida traffic nets, at hamfests and club meetings. The only opposition — rather half-hearted at that — came from the Florida League of Cities, but at the end, the League of Cities and the Florida Association of County Commissioners openly supported the bill.

That's how unanimous votes get generated.

Note: W4MLE covered the Florida legislature for nearly 20 years as a television news bureau chief in Tallahassee.

on the balloon and would also serve as the direction-finding beacon so that the package may be tracked and recovered. Telemetry packets will also be transmitted by this radio.

It would be of tremendous value to the mission if you could run a short article in **Florida Skip** announcing the preliminary launch plans and include a plea for a donation of a suitable handheld two-meter transceiver, preferably a more modern model and one without a touchtone pad. We need a newer unit because of the transmit to receive switching times that are so critical in packet radio operations. A unit such as the ICOM 2A would be nice.

We would gladly accept a loan. The radio would be returned to the owner upon recovery and dismantling of the payload components. However, the loaner would have to agree to let us modify the unit to fit the demands of the mission.

A general request for donations would also be greatly appreciated as the cost of this flight will be almost triple the cost of SkyBeacon-2.

The following is an outline of the proposed mission objective and payload description:

HamStar/SkyBeacon-3

Mission — to bring together a vast array of talents from the Florida Amateur Radio Community and direct it toward accomplishing a remarkable goal — to design, launch, operate, track, and recover, a very high altitude, free-flying amateur radio equipped balloon and to offer all who participate in any form, a Special Events Certificate.

HamStar Payload

1. A fast scan black and white ATV camera and transmitter of much better resolution than used on the previous flight. Live video will be transmitted continuously during the flight on 441.000 MHz. Transmission quality will be greatly improved due to an antenna system custom-made for StratoNet by antenna expert Walt Maxwell, W2DU, whose antenna designs are flying on many of the commercial spacecraft now in orbit.

2. A packet radio QSO robot almost identical to the one flown on the space shuttle. The robot will accept standard packet radio connects from the ground and issue each station a unique QSO number.

3. A digital telemetry system interfaced with the on-board packet radio TNC. Flight performance elements such as altitude, internal and external temperatures, and battery voltage will be transmitted as packet beacons amongst the QSO robot traffic.

4. A 35mm color, still camera. This microprocessor controlled camera will fly 20 feet above the main payload compartment and will be configured to take a photograph every 4.5 minutes of the main payload compartment and the ground below (36-exposure Fuji color film). Although probably the simplest system onboard, this will hopefully prove to be very exciting. Once the film is developed, the possibilities for QSL cards and certificates is endless!

We will be using a much larger balloon to lift SkyBeacon-3 to the edge of space. We are planning a maximum altitude of 120,000 feet and a total flight time of 2.5 hours.

We will issue a detailed news release as the details are firmed up, but this should give you enough for an article.

LOOK AGAIN

Look at the top line of your mailing label. This is your ONLY REMINDER WHEN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RUNS OUT! You can renew ANYTIME before experation date and our computer will automatically "ADD ON" from that date. It is just like putting money in the bank. We take renewals for one, two or three years, if you so desire.

So it's up to you to watch that top line. If you miss, the computer will automatically skip over your address when printing mailing labels.

Thanks for your cooperation in this important matter.

— 73, Editor